Peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you.

To proceed:

To the esteemed Sheikh Nasser Al-Fahd – may Allah grant him success and protect him from enemies… Ameen.

What is the ruling on working in a military music band, and is military music forbidden? What is the ruling on raising the hand beside the head – the salute – whether to the flag, to an officer, or to a non-believer?

I request that the answer be detailed.

May Allah reward you, Sheikh, and protect you from those who support the disbelievers.

The Answer:

Peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you.

To proceed:

It is not permissible to work in military music bands or any other kind of music bands.

The reprehensible acts found in military service are not limited to music; rather, there are many other violations, such as military courts, standing for the flag, military salutes, stamping the feet, imitation of disbelievers in attire, systems, ranks, obedience, and so on. Scholars have long condemned many of these matters before they became normalized, just as other prohibited acts became normalized over time.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman bin Qasim (may Allah have mercy on him) included a chapter in *Al-Durar Al-Saniyyah* [15/363–405] titled **"Chapter Seven: Police Uniform"**, in which he compiled several criticisms against police practices and the scholarly statements concerning them.

He said at the beginning of the chapter:

"The police uniform is prohibited due to its resemblance to the attire of the Franks (Europeans). The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: 'Whoever imitates a people is one of them.' Scholars had agreed with the king that police should not wear this well-known uniform, such as the hat and similar items. However, it was introduced gradually until it became established. Now, they walk among Muslims openly, spreading sin to everyone who sees them. They imitate the Franks in their walk by stamping the ground with their feet, and in greeting by signaling with their hands to the face instead of giving the Islamic greeting of peace, among other things."

He then quoted scholars including:

"In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. From Muhammad ibn Abdul Latif, Saleh ibn Abdul Aziz, and Muhammad ibn Ibrahim…"

He detailed their advice to the king regarding military violations, including uniforms, soldier training, music, and more.

Sheikh Muhammad ibn Ibrahim (may Allah have mercy on him) also mentioned many of these violations in his *Fatawa*. Among them, he said about the military cap [4/76]:

"As for the 'cap', it is not permissible to wear because it is a distinctive attire of disbelievers, and wearing it is an imitation of them, which is forbidden. There are many evidences supporting this."

He provided more detailed discussion in [6/231 and beyond].

Similarly, Sheikh Hamoud Al-Tuwaijri (may Allah have mercy on him), in his book *Clarification and Explanation of the Common Imitations of the Polytheists*, presented a collection of military-related violations. The book was introduced by Sheikh Ibn Baz (may Allah have mercy on him), who said in his introduction:

"I listened to the author read it from beginning to end, and I found it full of benefits and rare insights. I am not aware of any book like it in clarity of expression and focus on evidences."

Sheikh Hamoud mentioned several criticisms regarding military practices, including:

1. **Tenth category of imitation** (p. 97):
   "Rulers must remove European clothing from their armies and police and instead clothe them in Islamic dress."

2. **Twenty-third category** (p. 195):
   "Among the acts of imitation of Allah's enemies is signaling with fingers during greetings, or raising the palm beside the face, above the right eyebrow, as police and others do. Also, stamping the feet during greetings – they call this the 'military salute.' It is a greeting taken from the Franks and others among Allah's enemies. It is more mockery than it is a respectful greeting."

   He continues:
   "But what can we do when the nature of people has been changed by foreign modernism? It has corrupted their manners and actions to the point that they admire the actions of Franks and other non-Arabs, which people of sound reason and pure nature would find repulsive. This hideous salute is one of the evils that must be corrected and forbidden."

   He cites the hadith of Abdullah ibn Umar (may Allah be pleased with them):
   "The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: 'Whoever imitates a people is one of them.'"

   He goes on to say:
   "When the excellence of the Islamic greeting is known – that it is the greeting of Muslims in this world and the next – then it becomes evident that no one is more foolish than one who abandons it for the gestures of the Franks and their foot-stamping like mules and donkeys. Anyone who doubts this imitation should observe mules and donkeys in their stables as they stamp their feet. Likewise, look at the police stamping their feet in their salutes, and you'll see the similarity. In fact, the police saluting with foot-stamps is more vulgar and despicable than the behavior of beasts. The military salute is a disgrace and a mockery in the eyes of any sane person free from the diseases of European modernity and its filth."

3. **Twenty-fourth category** (p. 199):
   "Another imitation of Allah's enemies is the practice of guards and servants standing for kings who are seated, and people standing for others out of respect and reverence."

4. **Thirty-first category** (p. 249):
   "Among the imitations of Allah's enemies is the training of soldiers according to European systems, and forming them to resemble Allah's enemies in clothing, walk, and other invented gestures and actions. This imitation has spread widely among those claiming Islam. The evidence for its prohibition is the saying of the Prophet (peace be upon him): 'Whoever imitates a people is one of them,' and 'He is not one of us who imitates others.'"

Fatwas from the Permanent Committee for Islamic Research and Ifta also include rejections of some of these practices:

1. **[1/149, Fatwa No. 2123]:**
   Question: Is it permissible to stand in respect for any national anthem or flag?
   Answer:
   "It is not permissible for a Muslim to stand out of respect for any national flag or anthem. It is a reprehensible innovation that did not exist in the time of the Prophet (peace be upon him) or his Rightly Guided Caliphs. It contradicts the perfection of Tawheed and pure reverence for Allah alone. It is a means that may lead to shirk and includes imitation of disbelievers in their reprehensible customs and exaggeration in honoring their leaders and ceremonies. The Prophet (peace be upon him) forbade imitating them."

2. **[1/150, Fatwa No. 5963]:**
   "Saluting the flag is not permissible. It is a newly invented innovation. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: 'Whoever introduces into this matter of ours that which is not from it, it will be rejected.' [Bukhari and Muslim]"

3. **[1/150, Fatwa No. 6894]:**
   Question: What is the ruling on someone working in the Egyptian army, with it being his source of income, where he is obligated by army rules to venerate one another like non-Arabs do, to salute in ways other than those ordained by Allah and His Messenger, to glorify the national flag, and to judge among themselves by non-Islamic military laws?
   Answer:
   "Saluting the flag is not permissible. Judgment must be based on Islamic Shari'ah and referral must be to it. A Muslim is not allowed to greet leaders or presidents with the greetings of non-Muslims, due to the prohibition on imitating them and the excessiveness it implies in revering them."

Conclusion:

This is what could be compiled. The matter is clear, were it not for the estrangement of religion and the normalization of evil.

Allah is the one who helps.